

Worley shakes off flu to crush Amateurs' hopes

CROYDON AMATEURS 0, WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1

THE AMBULANCE that wailed its melancholy way into Croydon Arena on Saturday left without a bed being made. It could have been called for any one of the Amateurs players who had given everything for victory in this Amateur Cup first round game.

They failed but ironically enough the ambulance was for Wycombe's outside right Len Worley, brought in as substitute just 30 minutes from the end.

He had given as much in those minutes as some of his side did in 90—despite a bad attack of 'flu in the week. At the close of the game he collapsed in the dressing room and had just revived when the ambulance arrived and declined a trip to hospital.

The former England international had pumped across a series of passes to lively centre forward Keith Searle that had been lacking in Wycombe's play all afternoon. For Amateurs it was a pity. Up to that time they had been holding their own, but Worley proved to be that little too much.

Les Geeraerts can take much of the credit for the blank scoreline up to the 82nd minute. He had pulled off a series of fantastic saves with deliberation and daring.

With the excellent support of Tony Luckett, Doug Grout and Roger Agar—all three headed shots off the line—Croydon's defence seemed able to stop anything.

CHILDS STARS

Frank Childs dominated his side of the field and prompted the front line with many excellent passes as well as doing much sterling defensive work.

In fact in the first half with Croydon's forward rampaging about like hungry lions Amateurs could have gone ahead. They might have done so had Lloyd not blazed high and wide of the open goal from the best chance of the match.

Alan Young flitted everywhere in his efforts to find a gap and with Brian Ruel, Brian Russell and Maldwyn Price well on form they could have done it.

Terry Baldwin—ball player of the side—was sadly off form and shortly after the second half started Amateurs began to run out of steam.

The addition of Worley was the impetus Wycombe needed. Several times his daring raids forced acrobatic leaps from Geeraerts and eventually one of his roving moments brought the goal.

He fed Searle with a through ball that could have been Agar's or Luckett's. Unfortunately for Amateurs they were both fractionally too slow and Searle tore through to lash the ball home.

Searle—who has scored in all but one of Wycombe's matches

this season—had earned his goal with some fine play, tying in neatly with Ernie Horseman and Vic Busby.

At the other end Young pushed a shot past a post, after Brian Ruel had done the same thing.

Fred Ruel, on for Lloyd after 71 minutes, made little headway and the 710 supporters cheered Wycombe home.

MORE CLASS

There was no denying Wycombe had more class. Had they extended themselves they could possibly have made it more but then where does class overcome guts and fighting spirit? Certainly it took a long time to do that on Saturday.

Croydon Amateurs.—Geeraerts, Grout, Luckett, Lloyd, Agar, Childs, Baldwin, Young, Ruel (B.), Russell, Price. Sub.: Ruel (F.) for Lloyd.

Wycombe.—Maskell, Rundle, Gale, Suddaby, Delaney, Blunt, Lailey, Baker, Searle, Busby, Horseman. Sub.: Worley for Busby.